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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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A. The following information was obtained from Mrs BABIAK, nee RUZYCKA of Toronto, Ont., who lived in YAVORIV, near LVOV from 1945 to 1964. She left West Ukraine in 1964 for ULM/Donau, West Germany where she had joined her son, and then emigrated to Canada, where she lived with her sister in Toronto, Ont. The Source is Ukrainian, a former Teacher of high school, at one time director of desiatylitka, aged approx. 60.

1. According to the Source in late 1950's early 1960's there were discovered in the area of YAVORIV very rich layers of sulphur, thus far the richest and the largest in the Soviet Union. Their center was located in VILSHANYTSIA. The area itself covered also SHKLO.

In 1964 there were plans to evacuate VILSHANYTSIA and transform it ^{into} a mining center with barracks for approx. 40,000 workers. Young people were to be accommodated in those barracks, the older ones were to join their relatives in nearby villages, and the rest transferred to other places. Shortly before Source's departure for Germany, those plans were abandoned, But Vilshanytsia was to remain the center of the new sulphur district.

According to Source the sulphur layers were decisive in Khrushchev's abandoning the plans for exchange of respective territories with Poland. Some people in this region were in favor of such an exchange as they expected from it better chances to emigrate from Poland to the States and Canada. The majority, however, was afraid of Polish persecutions and preferred to remain within the Soviet Union.

2. Until 1949 YAVORIV was in a Zapretna Zona. At one time it had also a Pogranvoiska Station which had been transferred to KRAKIVETS. In 1964 YAVORIV had KGB and Militia, in the same building. Although it was no longer within Zapretna Zona the control in the town

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was very strict. Bus and other means of transportation were under constant surveillance and a stranger was bound to run into a militia or KGB man who would ask him for identification. A Canadian tourist of Ukrainian descent who wanted to see the house he was born at, was recognized at once after his arrival ^{by bus} and turned back to Lvov. This happened in 1960.

3. The military polygon, as the Zapretna Zona was called, covered ~~xxxx~~ an area of approx. 15-18 villages. Originally it was built in 1939/40 and then expanded in 1944/45, and afterwards. It belongs to Prykarpatskiy Voennyi Okrug and at one time its HQs were said to be located there. All the time there were explosions often heard at the polygon and accidents happened. People knew about them from funerals. Some military were buried in their special cemetery in Yavoriv, others were transported to the places they came from, or rather were taken to by their relatives. The military cemetery Source described "as large, very large

4. Approx. 5-7 km from Yavoriv (Source could not say in what direction), close to the forest, there was a Voyengorodok in which there lived officers with their families, with the rank up to Colonel. A General lived somewhere near SHKLO. Source knew from there a Col. VOVK, fnu of Poltava area with whom she corresponded after he had left Voyengorodok. The majority ~~xxxx~~ of officers was Russian, from other parts of the Soviet Union, only a few were local Ukrainians. Some officers who could afford to pay their rent, lived in the town of Yavoriv. ^{Late} 1950's many older officers were released and instead young faces appeared.

5. During the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 "all officers" of Voyengorodok were sent with their troops to Hungary. They did not return to YAVORIV ~~according to the story~~, and their relatives were soon afterwards transferred, too. Some wives asked local people for protection in case "the revolution would spread out to the Soviet Union".

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6. According to Source the anti-semitism was very strong among the military. Source knew a Jewish lady, wife of a Soviet officer, who complained to Source that other ladies refused to shake hands with her at their meeting just because she was Jewish.

7. There is in YAVORIV 2 Ukrainian and 1 Russian desiatylitkas. Officers are told to send their children only to the Russian one despite the fact that some Ukrainians wanted it otherwise.

8. According to Source some Ukrainians from Siberia are sending their children to West Ukraine to teach them in Ukrainian schools. Shortly before Source's departure for the West there were rumors that most desiatylitky would be reduced to 8-grade schools.

9. In Source's opinion the liquidation of Ukrainian Catholic Church has created a spiritual vacuum which nothing else was capable of filling it and, and this fact was primarily responsible for a widespread demoralization of young people, incl. drunkenness. The communism as such has been completely compromised, and had no chances to compete in this respect with religion.

In Yavoriv there were 4 churches before the war but now only one was left. Source knew a former priest by the name KUSHKIT, who refused to switch over to the Orthodoxy.

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B. Prof Ha. of Argentina made an interview in Feb 1966 with LUNDBERG, nee BEZRUCHKO who early 1966 arrived from LENINGRAD to Buenos Aires. L. is Ukrainian, aged 65, her father was NCO with Tsarist Gvardiya, her husband was an electrician engineer, died in Kolyma where he was deported during arrests of Prompartiya in 1936. Source was also arrested at that time but then released. Her brother lives in Argentina and he has sponsored her emigration to Argentina. He is an agronomist. Source stems from UMAN region and in 1963 visited Ukraine, where she still has some relatives.

1. According to L. there was a great dissatisfaction and uncertainty because of unstable agricultural policy ~~in the countryside~~ the countryside. In addition, all kind of rumors were circulating, and no one was sure as to whether ^{not} next day household plots would be taken away or decreased. People were particularly sensitive to any "wild rumors" to the effect that eventually cows or pigs would be taken away. At times there was already now only one cow for 4 families or so, and each family milked it every fourth day.

As a rule peasants dream of getting out of kolhosp to the town, and some succeed, despite regime's efforts to prevent it. A relative of L. who after his release from the Army had got job at one of ^{the} several factories in UMAN -area, was threatened by the Secretary of the rayon that his mother would be deprived of the single cow she possessed. Finally, however, ^{the Secretary} ~~he~~ did not do it.

2. On the whole people, both in Ukraine and Russia, were talking favorably about Khrushchev, particularly about his liberalization of regime, condemnation of Stalinism, and rehabilitations. Some people, relatives of the formerly persecuted and liquidated were even granted indemnifications provided they had no other means of living. L. herself did not apply for such indemnification because she had a pension and a part time work.

In general the BREZHNEV-KOSYGIN regime was regarded as temporary

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and further changes were expected.

One thing that people cannot forgive Khrushchev even now when the situation in their view is becoming more and more uncertain were his useless expenditures on trips abroad.

There were many complaints against money and other resources being spent on "revolutions" abroad and the aid for underdeveloped countries in general. Moreover that in people's opinion those underdeveloped countries were not pleased with Soviet aid, and there were many stories told, for instance, about Cuba where Soviet soldiers and technicians had supposedly themselves to unload cargoes because Cubans refused to do it.

3. In Leningrad there was on the whole a sufficient supply of food and ~~xxxx~~ consumer goods. From time to time, however, there were shortages and thus shortly before her departure from Leningrad there was a shortage of bread and even greater one of dairy products. To overcome this shortage the city put on market Dutch powder milk.

In L's view the situation in the countryside in Russia was much worse than in the Ukraine. Her explanation: not only richer soil in the Ukraine but also better disciplined ^{the} and better organized kolhosps. According to L. during the "thaw" in 1950's some kolhosps in Russian Republic were practically on the verge of complete dismantling as people were simply fleeing away from them. This did not, however, happen in the Ukraine.

4. According to L. the Chinese - Soviet conflict and the pressure of the satellites in Europe were profoundly conducive to creation of general uncertainty among party and administration officials who seemed to lose a lot of their former confidence and selfassurance. This ~~xxxxxx~~ mood was also spread into populace and created a feeling of "uncertainty and unpredictability" in general.

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